

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A rangefinder apparatus comprising:

AF data generating means for forming an image of light from an object to be subjected to rangefinding onto a pair of line sensors each including a plurality of light-receiving elements, and generating AF data for computing a correlation value according to signals obtained from the light-receiving elements;

AF data acquiring means for acquiring the AF data from a pair of employed sensor areas used for rangefinding in the pair of line sensors;

correlation value computing means for determining a pair of window areas for selecting the AF data to be used for computing a correlation value within the pair of employed sensor areas, and successively computing correlation values while shifting the pair of window areas;

object distance calculating means for detecting a shift amount of the window areas yielding the highest correlation according to the correlation values computed by the correlation value computing means and calculating a distance to the object according to the shift amount yielding the highest correlation; and

rangefinding incapability determining means for calculating an index value indicative of a degree of oscillation of the AF data in predetermined areas of the pair of line sensors, and determining according to the index

value whether rangefinding is incapable or not.

2. A rangefinder apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the rangefinding incapability determining
means samples AF data at a predetermined interval in a
predetermined area of each line sensor, and adds respective
5 absolute values of the differences between couples of AF
data sampled at the sampling points adjacent to each other
so as to calculate a contrast integration value for each
line sensor;

10 subtracts the absolute minimum value of the AF data
in the predetermined area of each line sensor from the
absolute maximum value thereof so as to calculate the maximum
contrast gap; and

15 calculates a ratio between the sum of the contrast
integration values for respective predetermined areas and
the sum of the maximum contrast gaps for respective
predetermined areas as the index value.

3. A camera comprising the rangefinder apparatus
according to claim 1.

20 4. A camera comprising the rangefinder apparatus
according to claim 2.